

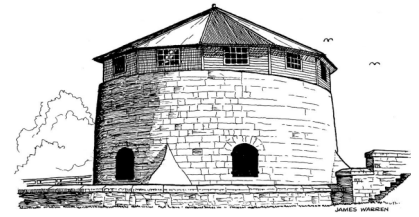
Limelight

Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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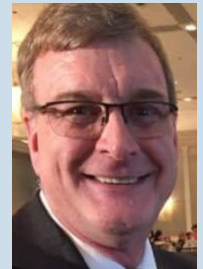
February 2019



KHS MEETING 20 February 2019 AGM plus

Seniors Centre 56 Francis Street **Gathering at 7 for 7:30pm meeting**

Graeme Watson, Chair of the Murney Tower Committee will be talking about the renovation activity taking place at the Tower. Graeme is a trained Geomatics professional working for the Ministry of Transportation. He has been able to use his expertise to aid in the planning of the renovations. Graeme will talk about how Laser scanning was used to document the Tower, both inside and out. These scans are used for education and accessibility, but they were also purchased by Parks Canada for planning purposes. Graeme will then show some pictures from under the coverings and describe the actual stone work being carried out.



MEMBERSHIP RATES

\$300 Sponsor

\$50 Individual

\$60 Family

\$60 Institution

\$25 Student

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Kingston Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will meet on Saturday, February 16th, at 9:30 a.m. at the Kingston Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street. Annual General Meeting plus speaker, Paul Banfield, archivist at Queen's University who will speak about the records at Queen's Archives and Stauffer Library. Visitors always welcome. Further info at www.kingston.ogs.on.ca

In Memoriam

We note with regret the deaths of four longtime members of the Kingston Historical Society:

Beatrice Margaret Corbett—November 15, 2018

John Derek McKendry - December 21, 2018

Stephen Laughren - January 3, 2019

Ross McKenzie - January 12, 2019



THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1893

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Please forward submissions to the Editor betty.andrews@gmail.com

Reprinting of articles from the Limelight must be accompanied by an acknowledgment of the Society, the issue and date. Photo credits and by-lines must be retained.

The KHS gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors in producing Limelight .

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The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

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President's Message

Warren Everett

This month our Annual General Meeting is on February 20th. Although sometimes perceived as not very exciting, the AGM is an important meeting. It is your opportunity to review the business of the last year, including the financial standing of your society. From my perspective, it is an opportunity to seek out your views on how the society has operated in the past year and, hopefully, get some suggestions for improvement, including proposals for our speaker programme. The other areas that need your support are volunteers for our council, and general help with the society committees and meetings.



This month we have our first KHS Heritage Dinner. The inaugural dinner will be held on February 23rd at the Royal Military College, Senior Staff Mess. You will find the details in this issue. Mr. J.D.M. Stewart, will take us behind the scenes in the public lives of some of Canada's Prime Ministers. Sounds intriguing! I trust I will see many of you there. Both the annual dinner and our regular meetings are, in a sense, our store-front in Kingston, the best way to bring in new members. I encourage all of you to bring your friends and neighbours to the meetings. It is through these presentations that we connect with the wider population of the city.

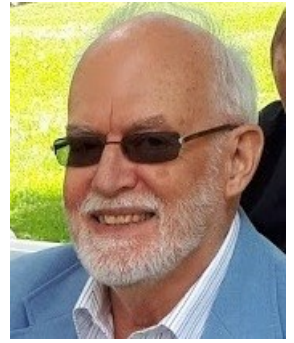
2018 brought many challenges, but as a team we have met them. The biggest challenge for the KHS remains membership. Without a robust membership, the Society will face an uncertain future. I cannot stress the importance of this enough. So I leave this as a challenge to all of you – bring in a new member!

KHS meetings featuring speakers on topics of historical interest are held on the third Wednesday of the months from September to May at the Seniors Centre, 56 Francis Street, Kingston, except in December when an awards ceremony and gala is held, usually at a different time and location. Other annual events are the celebration of the life of Canada's first Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald held at his graveside in the Cataraqui Cemetery National Historic Site on 6 June, the date of his death in 1891; and the Society's Canadian Heritage Dinner in February. Historic Kingston, the journal of the proceedings of the Kingston Historical Society, is published annually.

They Shall Not Grow Old A Documentary Film Review by Peter Gower

A new way of making the past come alive.

I have never really liked re-enactments. They are rarely authentic, and whenever I have taken part, I always seem to forget to hide my Tim Horton's cup. But as movies have improved technically, they have been more able to show what it was really like. Gone are the days when "Ben Hur" had airplane contrails through the sky. The long six minute panning take of the beach at Dunkirk in "Atonement" really showed what the place was like. The opening scene of the Imax version "Dunkirk" put you right in the street, and wincing at the sniper fire.



But suddenly, thanks to Peter Jackson, we are in a different world. There are no re-enactments in "They Shall Not Grow Old", just footage shot a century ago, rarely seen since (much of it would have been censored) and digitally enhanced – and what an enhancement. Jackson was asked by the Imperial War Museum in London to create something for the centenary of the 1918 Armistice. He started out with no plans, watched the 100 hours of contemporary footage the Museum had, listened to the 600 hours of interviews with veterans the Museum and the BBC had made. And he has created, not a history, but impressions of the First World War, impressions received by those who were there, illustrated with contemporary film.

The first half hour gives some idea of what is to come: Peaceful England in 1914, which became a country at war, recruiting men who saw a better life in the army than at home. Men awkward in every way as they were kitted out and made to march as a unit, but becoming more and more proficient and efficient. But there is something different about what we watch. There are no jerky movements, no too-fast walking; all is as calm as it would be if filmed today. We see Westminster Bridge, and I know my mother, then one year old is just off the screen in her house in Lambeth on the left. This is real.

But, as they say, "You ain't seen nuthin' yet!" As Kitchener's army arrives in France, the screen transforms into colour and into 3D, and we could be looking at a 21st century movie. In an epilogue seen only at selected showings, Peter Jackson explains how they carefully changed the speed of the film to 24 frames per second from whatever speed it had been originally shot at; that depended on the cinema-photographer's arm and ability. He tells how they used lip readers to find out what the men really said 100 years ago, and added that to the sound track; they coloured everything as naturally as possible. Jackson tells of travelling to France and Belgium to see what green grass there was really like, and of photographing in colour in 2016 the exact sunken road filmed in 1916 in monochrome so as to get the proper colour for the vegetation.

This is not history. It does not give dates nor name locations and is even inaccurate in suggesting tanks were used on the first day of the Somme. Simply, the voices of the veterans, as they tell their remembrances, are illustrated by the contemporary film now updated by the use of modern techniques. The result is stunning, as we realize that this was not a black and white war; it was fought in colour. The men did what they were told and nothing more. When told the war would end on November 11th, they had to ask what date it was today. Then they sadly realized they were out of a job. We can but sympathize with them, as we have all along their journey. At the end, we know much better what the trenches and the attacks were like. We really have lived through what they saw and heard.

"They Shall Not Grow Old" obviously sets a new standard for documentary films. I wait in eager anticipation to see what events we will next relive so realistically.

The Frontenac Heritage Foundation (FHF) was organized in 1972 by ten directors: M. Angus, H. Cartwright, K. Cartwright, A. Cohoe, H. Finley, G. Muirhead, J. Purvis, S. Sadinsky, A. Stinson and V. Swain. According to one of the founding members, Helen Finley, it was organized because the Kingston Historical Society did not want to involve itself in the protection of built heritage. I don't personally know that to be true, but it is possible that with the Society being organized in 1893, and with the threat of demolitions in the city's core in the early 1970s, that people felt there was a need for an organization to focus on the protection of our built heritage fabric.

At any rate, the Frontenac Historic Foundation was created, and on April 5, 1973, the first annual meeting was held, with 70 members in attendance and with Chair Margaret Angus presiding. Guest speaker R. A. J. Phillips spoke about the role of Heritage Canada in preserving and restoring buildings. The main issue at the time was whether the Foundation should acquire a property at 665 King Street in Portsmouth Village. Requests were made for volunteer labour, and for donations of old windows, paneling, and other such interior fixtures which might be used in the restoration of the building. The restored building was sold at auction and the auctioneer was Val Swain.

Also noted in the first newsletter was the organization underway trying to save the round-cornered Mowat building (designed by George Browne and built in 1841) located at Princess and Bagot Streets. The Bank of Nova Scotia wanted to demolish the building, and directors Swain, Angus, Finley and Muirhead went by train to Toronto to discuss their objections with the bank officials. A letter-writing campaign ensued, and a march down Princess Street brought more attention to the issue, with attendees wearing funeral clothes.

Over time, there have been multiple building restorations after 665 King Street, including 112 Rideau Street (1974), and the 1830s Hyland-Stanton stone house at 415 Regent Street in Barriefield (1990) 205 William Street (1996). Also, the jurisdiction for the FHF has expanded from the old City of Kingston to a much larger Kingston region, including neighbouring municipalities.

In 1976, the Foundation sponsored a conference '*New Life for Old Buildings*' and '*Decline and Fall: Architecture in Kingston and Frontenac County*' an exhibition at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. The exhibition included black and white architectural photos taken by Emil Erkan, and for buildings that had been demolished, related artifacts were included in the exhibit (stained glass, wooden trim, etc.). Gerald Finley authored an accompanying book '*In Praise of Older Buildings*'.

Starting in 1982, awards were given to homeowners, architects and tradespeople who have been involved in restoring their heritage buildings. This is an annual highlight for the Foundation and is a popular event.

In 2002, a building was donated to the Foundation at 62 – 66 Brock Street, and with that, responsibilities to commercial and residential tenants and to maintaining a heritage building in downtown Kingston.

Over the 45 years, the name has changed to Frontenac Heritage Foundation. The FHF assisted various authors to publish books, and spearheaded much advocacy work across the Kingston region. The original logo changed from an aspen leaf, to the FHF with a backwards 'F' to the current logo.

Now, we publish a booklet '*Foundations*' three times a year, hold educational events each month, and we organize a special project each year. In 2017 the Dry Stone Wall Festival was organized in Barriefield with the support of Dry Stone Canada, St. Mark's Anglican Church and the Barriefield Village Association. That year, the Foundation updated its website, adopted a new logo, and became active on social media, with a public Facebook page.

For 2019, we are organizing a one-day workshop 'Regenerating Places of Faith', to discuss re-use of church buildings; with congregations dwindling, people are trying to find ways to use these wonderful structures in interesting and respectful ways. The workshop scheduled for June 1, is to be held at The Spire. And of course, we continue our advocacy work trying to protect our built heritage fabric in the broader area. In 2018, the FHF was one of four parties opposing the 16 storey Capitol tower at 223 Princess Street, and the decision to turn down the application is now being contested in the Divisional Court. The FHF is also opposing the 19 and 23 storey towers proposed by Homestead Holdings. Memberships have increased 60% over the last three years to 115 at present, so clearly this advocacy work is resonating with the community. We welcome new members at any time, and one can now join on-line at the following link: <https://frontenacheritage.ca/get-involved/donate/>

S. Bailey, President

Thanks to the meticulous record keeping of Diane Duttie, we have an excellent record of the newsletters that were produced over time.

Speaker's Corner

by Marc Shaw

Considering its long presence on the Kingston scene and its status as the area's largest employer, relatively little has been written about Canadian Forces Base Kingston. Fortunately. We addressed this at our January meeting, when retired artillery officer and KHS member Brent Mills gave us an excellent and entertaining look at the not-too-distant past of the early-mid 1990s, when a wave of successive budgets delivered under the Jean Chretien government led to the elimination or reduction of many bases and installations across the country, and threatened the very survival of CFB Kingston. Noting the economic situation of the day, and the government's desire to curb deficits, Brent told the story of how in Kingston, local forces coalesced in a unique manner to wage battle and ultimately save CFB Kingston. Brent brought along two of the key players in that struggle –



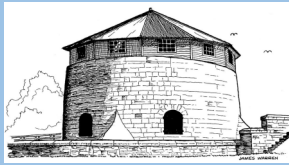
Bill Richard, Brent Mills, Peter Milliken, Carl Holmberg

Bill Richard and Carl Holmberg, then Base Commander and Pittsburg Township Reeve – who were front and centre, along with a diverse group drawn from the Kingston military, labour, education, civic and hospital communities, in the realization that the threat to the Base had huge implications for the entire Kingston community. This was an excellent way to begin the 2019 Speaker Series!

Murney Tower

Operated by

the Kingston Historical Society



New Gun Platform Banners

As part of the 2018 exhibition renewal, new display banners were installed in the Murney Tower Museum gun platform in time for the 2018 operating season. The installation includes a total of five bilingual banners containing information about several key defensive features of the gun platform and tower—amongst these are the Blomefield cannon, the roof, the hot shot furnace and other artillery. An explanation of how the cannon was prepared is also included. Visitor reaction has been extremely positive. The interpreters have received compliments about the aesthetic appeal of the banners, the nice balance of images and text and how informative they have been. Many visitors commented on how they enhanced their overall museum experience. Several people dedicated time and effort to the success of these banners. The Murney Tower Curator, Danielle Marshall, researched, wrote and edited the text with the assistance of a French-speaking volunteer, Charmaine Martel, and KHS Secretary, Don Richardson. Gordon Robinson provided helpful suggestions and assistance with installation and Robert Mutch lent his talents in the design of the banners. KKP Printing provided the printing services. This project was generously funded by the City of Kingston Heritage Fund.



A letter to the editor, recently published in the Kingston Whig-Standard and the Brockville Recorder and Times by Brian Porter

Sir John A. Macdonald Day is on Jan. 11. It marks the birth of our first prime minister in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1815. His many years in government were filled with great accomplishments. He was the acknowledged leader of an experiment called Confederation of four small British colonies in North America, with no guarantees it would succeed and much active opposition.

The British North America Act, the basic part of our Constitution today, is largely his work.

Under his leadership in 1867, this newly formed little nation of 3.5 million people, widely scattered in four small provinces, had to find its way between two giants — the mighty British Empire and the emerging world power of the United States, coming out of a vicious Civil War, wary of Britain on its northern border and eyeing control of the whole continent, with its idea of Manifest Destiny.

Macdonald had the political skills and the people skills to steer this embryonic nation through a minefield of racial, linguistic and religious misunderstanding and bigotry to build a new northern nation, from Atlantic to Pacific, tied together with steel rails.

Compromise and moderation were necessary ingredients. In a letter to Sir John Rose in England in 1872, he wrote: "It is only by the exercise of constant prudence and moderation that we have been able to prevent the discordant elements from ending in a blow-up."

By almost any measure, Canada is a great success story in the world today. We have built a peaceful, prosperous, diverse, democratic society based on a Parliamentary system of government and the rule of law. We are one of the oldest continuous democracies in the world, along with Great Britain and the United States. For over 150 years we have made it work, despite our many fault lines.

John A. Macdonald and his generation laid a firm foundation. His 47-year Parliamentary career spanned 23 years before Confederation and 24 years after, working hard to consolidate this new nation.

This flawed but fascinating figure was the right man, in the right place, at the right time. Canada is his monument.



PAN CHANCHO

the pig with a peel

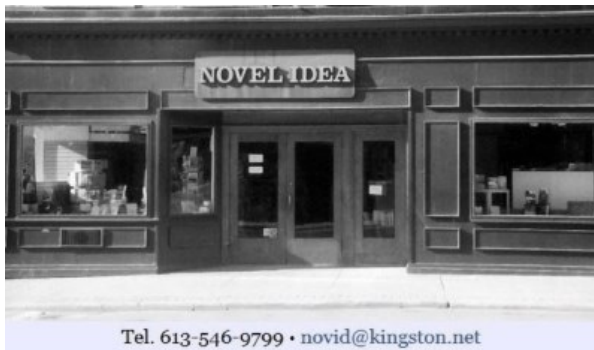
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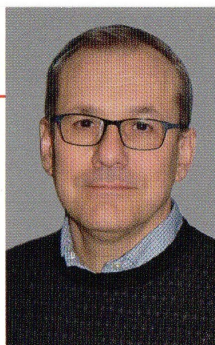
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A new ad for KHS's first sponsor

Canadian Heritage Dinner

Sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society

This year we will be holding the inaugural Canadian Heritage Dinner sponsored by the Kingston Historical Society. The guest speaker for this special event is J.D.M. Stewart, educator and author. He will be referencing his recent book *"Being Prime Minister: Behind-the-scenes stories of Canada's Leaders"*. Behind the politics, discover the lives of Canada's leaders!

A valuable and insightful look at...the people who have held the highest office in the land. A must read...!!
Don Newman, retired senior parliamentary editor for CBC Television

With lively anecdotes and thoughtful insights, Stewart reminds us that there are human beings behind the headlines. This absorbing and original book explores aspects of political life that are too often ignored.
Charlotte Gray, author of *The Promise of Canada*

Date:	Saturday, February 23, 2019
Time:	6:00 pm with dinner commencing at 7:00 pm
Location:	Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College
Cost:	\$70.00 per person

Our meal will consist of the following: Entrée, Potato/Leek soup, PEI vegetables, roasted potatoes plus tea, coffee and squares for dessert. This year we have 3 dinner options for you to choose from, including a vegetarian option. Please choose from below on the registration form.

Entrée Options: Stuffed Chicken Supreme - prosciutto/white cheddar/herb vinaigrette
 Grilled Salmon Loin - maple, apple, bacon compote
 Stuffed Risotto Croquette - smoke cheese/tomato coulis/pesto sauce/

Please fill out the tear-off portion of the registration form and send it along with your cheque to the address below. **ALL registration forms must be received no later than Friday, February 8, 2019.**

Anne Richardson
c/o Kingston Historical Society
750 Amaryllis Street, Kingston, Ontario K7P 0A9

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Anne Richardson at: richanne@hotmail.ca

.....
NAME(S): _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER OF CHICKEN DINNERS: _____

NUMBER OF SALMON DINNERS: _____

NUMBER OF VEGETARIAN DINNERS: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

PLEASE LIST ANY FOOD ALLERGIES: _____